GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5549
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
NEXUS BETWEEN PRASAR BHARATI AND P.S.B.T.
JAGDAMBI PRASAD YADAV

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken to stop the telecast of obscene and inferior quality programmes on the Doordarshan and Cable TV;

(b) whether any committee has been set up to control it and the members of the said committee alongwith the qualifications thereof;

(c) whether nexus between Chief Executive Officer of Prasar Bharati and a Delhi based private institutionP.S.B.T. has been reported in this connection;

(d)if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the steps taken/proposed to be taken to stop the telecast of such undesired programmes and to check the irregularities being committed in the Doordarshan?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SMT. SUSHMA SWARAJ)

(a): Prasar Bharati has informed that Doordarshanprogrammes are regularly previewed for ascertaining that their quality is good and the content is fit for family viewing. The programmes telecast on satellite channels, when distributed through cable network are required to subscribe to the Programme Code laid down in the Cable Television Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and the Rules framed thereunder, which inter-alia prohibits carrying of a programme in cable service which contains anything obscene. In case of violation of the provisions of the Act and Rules, action is required to be taken by the authorised officers viz. the District Magistrates, Sub-Divisional Magistrates, Commissioners of Police and such other officers as are notified by the Central/State Governments.

(b): The Government has constituted a Committee of Officersfrom the Ministries of Information & Broadcasting, Home Affairs, External Affairs, Defence and Law to render advice, where the CentralGovernment considers such advice to be essential and / or desirable, for action to be taken in case of a specific complaint regarding any programme of any channel not being in conformity with the prescribed Programme Code.

(c): No such report has come to the notice of this Ministry

(d) & (e): Do not arise.